

was slain gallantly defending his life, his liberty, and his country against a horde of robbers, who had no pretence for hostilities except a savage and unjustifiable love of plunder, and no argument but the sword to support them. However, as regards the church, it is probable there was one here before the conqueror's time, from the above-mentioned Saxon font, and some slight remains in the present building of the architecture of that age; but it is certain he so far improved and enlarged it, and caused it to be dedicated to the honour of St. John the Evangelist, that he may very properly be called its founder. Since his days it has undergone so many changes, of consequence of the injuries of time and unavoidable dissolutions during the lapse of nearly eight hundred years, and the "beautifications" (to use a Gothic term to describe a Gothic act) the interior has lately received, that little of its original form remains; and at present it has a venerable, though rather a motley, appearance to the eye of the man of taste.

The outward walls of the nave beneath the tiles are what is termed embattled, and within runs a gutter to carry off the water. The windows are the "pointed" of the 15th century, and divided at their tops by ramifications; the western one only excepted, which has a circle near the top, within which are quatrefoils conjoined at the centre. The aisles, which appear to have been added subsequently to the erection of the most ancient part of the fabric, have windows of a later date. The arch of the north-eastern door is of the same date as the windows in the nave. Preceding eastward a different style prevails; so that it appears from the long lancet windows divided on the inside by slender clustered columns, and externally by narrow compartments, that the chancel and cross aisles, on the junction of which is placed the tower or steeple—a building of the same age—are of much higher antiquity.

At first the structure was perfectly cruciform, as there formerly stood a chapel on the site, marked on the plan by dotted lines, out of the ruins of which the two small chapels were built some three centuries ago. To describe the interior of the church in its present state, I begin at the western end, near which is the beautiful circular stone font before-mentioned. The nave of the church, which is very lofty, is in length from the western end to the entrance into the chancel, one hundred and thirty-seven feet. On each side are the aisles divided from the nave by lofty pointed arches on round piers. It is intersected by two cross aisles, or transepts, forming the Chapel of the Men of Battle and the chapel of the Norman or Red-haired Race, in the vernacular, Cspel Gambaid; they are each about 40 feet in length by 30 feet.

The chancel is 64 feet in length by 30 feet in breadth; and here time and his apparent adversary (though frequently too powerful conqueror), innovation, have failed in their attempts to efface more than a portion of the ancient magnificence of the Brecknock Priory Church. On each side are rows of light and beautiful clustered columns, broken off just above the corbels, though they show parts of the ribs springing to support the roof; these were, doubtless, continued originally throughout the nave; for though the ceiling was lately renewed the present one was of early date, I should not suppose it was coeval with the foundation of the fabric.

Those who have seen structures of the same description as Westminster Abbey, know how to appreciate the grandeur and sublimity of this style of architecture; and admitting the varied excellences of the different classic styles—the elegance of the Grecian, and the boldness of the Roman—yet what is so strangely called the Gothic arch, has something peculiarly affecting in its sweeping curve and finely-pointed termination. The long rows of slender columns, shooting loftily up and at once blurring in the richest and most fanciful foliage, or mingling in the labyrinth of the intersecting groin, and all the varied details appertaining to this most interesting style, naturally and forcibly elevate the human mind, tend to impress the soul with devotion, and powerfully assist and promote religious awe and holy rapture, when—

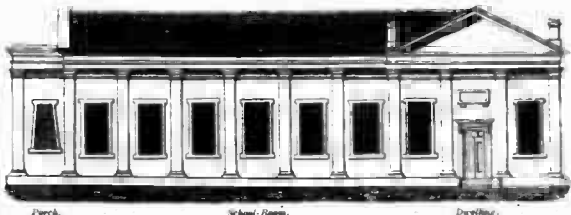
"Through the long-drawn aisle and fretted vault
Peeping anthems swell the note of praise."

J. L. T.

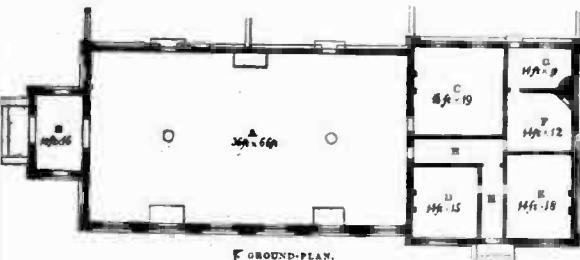
DESIGN FOR AN INFANTS' SCHOOL.



ELEVATION OF THE SCHOOL ENTRANCE FRONT.



LONGITUDINAL ELEVATION.



GROUND-PLAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

In the ground-plan, A, is the school-room; B, a lobby open at the sides and front; E, parlour; D, bed-room; F, kitchen; and G, a wash-house, communicating with a small yard at the back; H II, are passages; C is a committee-room, which might also be used in the day time as a repository for books, &c. The school-room would accommodate 330 children, and be kept at a proper temperature by two stoves in the centre; the ventilation would be ensured by the top sashes being made to swing on pivots; no ceiling would be necessary. If intended to be used also as a Sunday school, a moveable partition may be constructed so as effectually to divide it when requisite into two separate rooms.

In the elevations I have endeavoured to unite economy with propriety. The dwelling-house ought in the design to form a feature distinct from the school. The pilasters, plinths, entablature, chimney-shafts, and the dressings to the doors and windows should be of cement jointed, the other parts might be of brick. A wall may surround the play-grounds; their size depending on the plot of ground intended for the site. The building ought to be at some distance from the footpath, and should be surrounded by an iron railing, with piers and gates.

C. D.

London, January 2, 1844.

[We do not approve of the mass of building containing the porch being set before the end of the school-room, finished with a pediment, which latter it would partly conceal in every view; the flank of the school-room containing six bays and six windows, we hold would be improved by continuing the roof of the school-room quite over the porch, so as that an unobscured pediment might then be forced over the end elevation of the whole building; and also that the flank elevation might contain seven bays and seven windows, and two closets might then be formed at the sides of the porch. We do not particularly like the dwelling-house as attached to the main building, making the latter merely as an irregular wing, without being picturesque, although uniformity has been sacrificed. We do not approve of a public building being unsubstantially decorated with cement; but prefer the adoption of a style of architecture which can be executed with a moderate proportion of dressed stone, or with moulded brick. We do not think strict economy has been followed in making the dwelling, which consists of small apartments, one of them only 14 feet by 9 feet, in a building, of the same altitude as the school-room, which is 66 feet long and 33 feet wide. By the adoption of domestic Gothic architecture in school-buildings, all these sacrifices and anomalies may be effectually evaded, and the feelings of most people be better consulted. Nor is there any reason why school-buildings should be of the very latest kind of the Gothic, or of the latest Tudor style, from whence "the vital spark" of architecture "had fled," but the more ancient and more scientific style, of assimilation with the parish churches, may be successfully adopted.—Ed.]